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NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS PUBLICATIONS

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NO. 11.—SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

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# SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

NOVEMBER, 1916

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NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

130 EAST TWENTY-SECOND STREET, NEW YORK

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# NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS

130 EAST TWENTY-SECOND STREET, NEW YORK

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SECOND ANNUAL REPORT  
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OF BLINDNESS

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NOVEMBER, 1916

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130 EAST TWENTY-SECOND STREET  
NEW YORK CITY

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SECOND ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE PREVEN-  
TION OF BLINDNESS

1916

Three aims are constantly in view as the Committee carries on its efforts to assist the movement to reduce needless blindness:

1. Study and investigation of the causes of blindness or impaired vision;
2. Advocacy of measures to eliminate these causes;
3. Dissemination of knowledge on the subject.

How the Committee's service has been rendered in the second year of its present organization is found in detail in the following pages devoted to the Report of the Secretary. A brief review is here attempted.

**Study and investigation** have been undertaken in two specific subjects in the twelvemonth. Relation of the motion picture habit to possible impaired vision was made the subject of an examination of sources of information as the result of a suggestion made by Dr. Haven Emerson, Health Commissioner of New York City. An article by the Acting Secretary of the Committee was the outcome, and it was published in the Monthly Bulletin of the Health Department, New York City, and was widely copied. Hazards to eyesight in the industries have been studied at first hand in certain factories, large and small, in Buffalo, by a special investigator, the results to be reported as part of the large work which we have undertaken in that city, namely, to study and describe what one live city is doing and what any energetic community can do to provide for the conservation of vision of its citizens.

We have been called on to **advise in the preparation of laws**

and rules for preventing ophthalmia neonatorum and wood-alcohol poisoning, and have advocated the measures best known at the time.

In prosecuting the third object of the Committee, namely, the dissemination of knowledge, the resources and the ability of the Committee have been called on in far greater degree than in our first year, and, indeed, beyond our capacity to satisfy the demands. Much as we must regret it, not every request for assistance could be complied with.

The New York State Committee's activities have been continued with vigor, despite the loss of our efficient secretary, who was called to the important service of executive officer of the Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness. The Field Secretary assumed charge of the local work and was able, under the direction and with the coöperation of the Chairman, Dr. Louisa Lee Schuyler, and by the aid of members of the Committee, to do a spring and summer work of large usefulness. With the opening of the autumn season a secretary was found who already has proved her efficiency and adaptability to this service. The valuable work of the New York State Committee will go on with renewed vigor and large promise.

Our annual inquiry made of the schools for the blind in the United States to ascertain the proportion of pupils entering these schools whose blindness might have been prevented shows that 19 per cent. of the admissions were victims of the ignorance and carelessness which results in *ophthalmia neonatorum*, that is, about 200 new recruits marched into the country's special schools for the blind who need not have been doomed to a life without the light of day. In all the schools, out of a total attendance of 5,400, there are today about 1,100 boys and girls blind of this one disease. The encouraging fact is, however, that the proportion is decreasing, as a result, we believe, of the sort of education of the public for which we are laboring.

Other causes of preventable blindness which must attract attention are disclosed in the analysis of the schools' reports.\* One hundred forty-six pupils—nearly five per cent.—are victims of interstitial keratitis, largely the result of that syphilitic taint

\* See illustration facing page 10.

which thus secures a toll of innocent victims—sins of the father to the third and fourth generation! Some must speak out plainly against sin which brings calamity on the generations to follow.

Fewer cases of **wood-alcohol poisoning** have been reported during the year. One case of prosecution in a New York City court resulted in a jury verdict of \$25,000 damages to a man blinded from inhaling fumes of wood alcohol. New Jersey's Bureau of Foods and Drugs and the New York City Bureau, working in conjunction, unearthed a wholesale effort to substitute this poisonous fluid for grain alcohol. Seattle's Board of Health dealt summarily with a druggist who substituted wood alcohol for grain alcohol and caused the death of seven and the blindness of three men.

Realizing the importance of a study of the effects of the employment of wood alcohol in the industries and an authoritative pronouncement as a result of such study by disinterested investigators, the Board of Directors adopted a resolution requesting the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics to provide therefor.

**Field Work.**—Three States have enjoyed extended service of our Field Secretary, Alabama, Michigan, and North Carolina. In many States, through the existence and activity of this Committee, local agencies have put themselves to work, notably in North Dakota and Arkansas, where the heads of the State schools for the blind have made themselves local field agents for the spread of our gospel of sight-saving. The Managing Director was able to render personal service in the field by accepting invitations which called him for a three weeks' trip into four States.

**American Medical Association.**—This great organization has a sub-committee on Conservation of Vision of its Council on Public Health and Education. Of this sub-committee, Dr. Frank Allport is chairman. Many addresses have been made by physicians acting through the leadership of Dr. Allport's Committee. It has been our privilege to serve these lecturers by furnishing to them our materials and literature.

**The News Letter** became a printed pamphlet in place of a multigraphed letter in April, 1916, and our Executive Committee authorized its publication regularly five times a year, in the

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months of February, April, June, October, and December. Its circulation has grown remarkably and its valuable character is attested by many of its readers, including a considerable number of libraries which maintain files of the publication.

**Résumé.**—Let me gather in a paragraph a résumé of what the Secretary's statistics detail. We have appealed to the eye and the ear of the public through press articles, pamphlets, exhibits, lantern slides, and lectures, having published 300,000 pieces of literature, contributed to magazines and newspapers a score of articles (most of which have been copied many times), produced two new exhibits of five panels each, sent our exhibits into 46 cities and towns in 21 States, added about 150 subjects to our list of lantern slides, delivered or arranged for the delivery of 100 lectures, visited and served in person 10 States, corresponded with practically every State in the Union, and answered inquiries from several European countries, from South America, the Philippines, China, South Africa, India, and Australia.

Along with a sense of achievement we have a deeper sense of a great work to be done. Cheered by success and appreciation, we set our hands to the task before us in confidence and with renewed energy.

EDWARD M. VAN CLEVE,  
*Managing Director.*

November 1, 1916.

## REPORT OF THE ACTING SECRETARY AND FIELD SECRETARY

MR. EDWARD M. VAN CLEVE, Managing Director,  
National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness.

*Dear Sir:* I beg to submit the following second annual report upon my work as Field Secretary of the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness from November 1, 1915, to November 1, 1916, also covering the Committee's activities under the direction of the former Secretary to March 1, 1916, and from that date until November 1, 1916, under my own direction as Acting Secretary.

Following is the itemized schedule of the Committee's educational work through the loan and sale of its exhibits, lantern slides and publications. Large photographic reproductions of the original panels of the Committee's exhibits on ophthalmia neonatorum (babies' sore eyes), trachoma, wood alcohol, midwives, and eye accidents in the industries have been loaned for display under local auspices in the following cities, the period of use varying from three days to two months (The abbreviations indicate the exhibits used: (B) Babies' Sore Eyes; (M) Midwives; (W) Wood Alcohol; (T) Trachoma; (I) Industrial Eye Accidents):

### PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITS

#### 1915

<i>November</i>			
Bathgate.....	North Dakota	3 exhibits	B, M, W.
Brooklyn.....	New York	2    "	B, W.
<i>December</i>			
Brooklyn.....	New York	2    "	B, W.

#### 1916

<i>January</i>			
Birmingham.....	Alabama	3    "	B, M, W.
<i>February</i>			
New York.....	New York	3    "	B, M, W.
Minneapolis.....	Minnesota	3    "	B, M, W.

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## PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITS—(Continued)

<i>March</i>			
Salem.....	New Jersey	4 exhibits	B, M, W, T.
Houghton.....	Michigan	3 "	B, M, W.
Grand Forks.....	North Dakota	4 "	B, M, W, T.
Moline.....	Illinois	4 "	B, M, W, T.
<i>April</i>			
Muscatine.....	Iowa	2 "	B, M.
Douglas.....	Kansas	4 "	B, M, W, T.
Moline.....	Illinois	2 "	B, M.
Seattle.....	Washington	1 exhibit	W.
Little Rock.....	Arkansas	3 exhibits	B, M, T.
Porterdale.....	Georgia	4 "	B, M, W, T.
<i>May</i>			
Las Cruces.....	New Mexico	3 "	B, M, T.
Kalamazoo.....	Michigan	3 "	B, M, W.
Milwaukee.....	Wisconsin	2 "	B, M.
Lincoln University.....	Pennsylvania	1 exhibit	B.
Chicago.....	Illinois	2 exhibits	B, M.
<i>June</i>			
Wellsville.....	New York	3 "	B, M, W.
Waterbury.....	Connecticut	2 "	B, M.
Alpena.....	Michigan	2 "	B, M.
Meriden.....	Connecticut	4 "	B, M, W, T.
Albany.....	New York	2 "	B, T.
Chapel Hill.....	North Carolina	4 "	B, M, W, T.
Cincinnati.....	Ohio	1 exhibit	B, I.
<i>July</i>			
New London.....	Connecticut	4 exhibits	B, M, W, T.
Seneca.....	South Carolina	4 "	B, M, W, T.
New York.....	New York	3 "	B, M, T.
New York.....	New York	4 "	B, M, W, T.
Snohomish.....	Washington	1 exhibit	W.
<i>August</i>			
New York.....	New York	4 exhibits	B, M, W, T.
Galesburg.....	Illinois	3 "	B, M, T.
Nashville.....	Tennessee	4 "	B, M, W, T.
Sacramento.....	California	3 "	B, W, T.
<i>September</i>			
Nashville.....	Tennessee	1 exhibit	B.
Stillwater.....	Minnesota	4 exhibits	B, M, W, T.
St. Paul.....	Minnesota	1 exhibit	B.
Minneapolis.....	Minnesota	4 exhibits	B, M, W, T.
<i>October</i>			
Pinehurst.....	North Carolina	4 "	B, M, W, T.
Winston-Salem.....	North Carolina	4 "	B, M, W, T.
Greensboro.....	North Carolina	4 "	B, M, W, T.
Durham.....	North Carolina	4 "	B, M, W, T.
Lexington.....	North Carolina	4 "	B, M, W, T.
Raleigh.....	North Carolina	4 "	B, M, W, T.
Kinston.....	North Carolina	4 "	B, M, W, T.
Oxford.....	North Carolina	4 "	B, M, W, T.
Smithfield.....	North Carolina	4 "	B, M, W, T.
Tarboro.....	North Carolina	4 "	B, M, W, T.
Syracuse.....	New York	1 exhibit	I.
Detroit.....	Michigan	1 "	I.
Cincinnati.....	Ohio	1 "	I.
Philadelphia.....	Pennsylvania	2 exhibits	B, M.

**Résumé.**—From the foregoing it will be noted that our exhibits have been used in 46 cities and towns in 21 States. Reproductions of our exhibits have been sold to the North Dakota State School for the Blind; the Department of Health, State of New York; the New Jersey State Commission for the Blind; Mr. Henry Ford, for the Bureau of Industrial Welfare, Chamber of Commerce, Detroit, Michigan, and to the New York State Committee for the Prevention of Blindness for the permanent use of the Bureau of Education, Department of Health, City of New York. During the year two new exhibits have been built—one, on Trachoma,\* the other on Eye Accidents in the Industries. Each consists of five panels. On the latter, sketches in color by James Daugherty, representing the various hazards and protective devices described, have most effectively superseded the usual combination of photographs. In the preparation of both of these exhibits we have received the valued coöperation of the Department of Surveys and Exhibits of the Russell Sage Foundation. Unfortunately a number of the original panels of the exhibits on Midwives and Wood Alcohol were ruined by water, following the bursting of a water-main in the building where they had been stored. The original exhibit on Babies' Sore Eyes was lost in transit, the Committee lately having received indemnity therefor from the Express Company. It is desirable that these exhibits be rebuilt and brought up to date as soon as possible. Without exception, deep appreciation and expressions as to the great educational value of their use have reached us from the individuals and organizations borrowing them.

### LANTERN SLIDES

Exclusive of the use made of our lantern slides by the executive officers of the Committee, they have been loaned as follows:

#### 1915

<i>November</i>			
New York.....	New York	50	slides
Fargo.....	North Dakota	100	"
Harrisburg.....	Pennsylvania	75	"
Oswego.....	New York	71	"
<i>December</i>			
Owego.....	New York	85	"
Birmingham.....	Alabama	57	"

\* See illustration opposite page 10.

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1916

<i>January</i>		
New York	New York	21 slides
New York	New York	81 "
New York	New York	59 "
New York	New York	53 "
<i>February</i>		
New York	New York	81 "
New York	New York	52 "
New York	New York	31 "
New York	New York	15 "
New York	New York	9 "
San Francisco	California	165 "
<i>March</i>		
New York	New York	19 "
New York	New York	38 "
Fargo	North Dakota	28 "
New York	New York	96 "
Towanda	Pennsylvania	10 "
New York	New York	47 "
Houghton	Michigan	75 "
Norway	Michigan	102 "
New York	New York	24 "
Moline	Illinois	165 "
New York	New York	38 "
Whitman	Massachusetts	75 "
<i>April</i>		
Lexington	Kentucky	23 "
Rockland	Massachusetts	75 "
Porterdale	Georgia	51 "
Little Rock	Arkansas	75 "
<i>May</i>		
Las Cruces	New Mexico	75 "
Crookston	Minnesota	87 "
New York	New York	40 "
Buffalo	New York	46 "
New York	New York	15 "
New York	New York	12 "
Waukesha	Wisconsin	75 "
Geraldine	Montana	90 "
<i>June</i>		
Pittsburgh	Pennsylvania	29 "
Buffalo	New York	89 "
Albany	New York	89 "
Newark	New Jersey	138 "
New York	New York	27 "
<i>July</i>		
New York	New York	6 "
Erie	Pennsylvania	69 "
<i>August</i>		
New York	New York	49 "
<i>October</i>		
New York	New York	75 "
Brooklyn	New York	75 "
Buffalo	New York	165 "

# TRACHOMA

## A DETRIMENT TO SELF AND OTHERS



Trachoma is a dangerous and common disease

## IT IS CATCHING IT IS PREVENTABLE

If neglected it will cause partial or total

## BLINDNESS



## TRACHOMA IS COMMUNICABLE

### SOME WAYS TO CATCH TRACHOMA



Trachoma Flourishes in Dirty Homes

## HOW TO PREVENT TRACHOMA

Towels and cloths, spoons, handkerchiefs and bedclothes must by a person who has trachoma should NEVER be used by anyone else

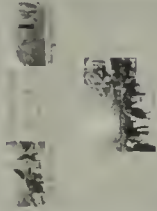
### DISEASED EYES OR WELL EYES SHOULD NEVER BE TOUCHED BY DIRTY HANDS

Keep the washbasin always CLEAN Consult a good oculist or go to the hospital for treatment. Do not have any operations of trachoma with your eyes

### Keep in GOOD PHYSICAL CONDITION Have plenty of FRESH AIR and SUN SHINE in your home Sleep with the WINDOWS OPEN



## A COMMON, DANGEROUS DISEASE



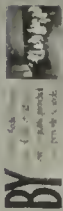
One of the people in our State who has trachoma. Victims of the disease are victims of Trachoma

### THERE ARE 33,000 CASES IN ONE SOUTHERN STATE

Second job for the State is alarming. Found a mother having a child have small pox. A second case

## ACTION NEEDED NOW

## IT CAN BE CONTROLLED



### BY BY

By making it the legal duty of physicians to report every case of trachoma to the local health officer who shall be empowered to provide proper treatment

### BY BY

By proper housing and industrial conditions  
By keeping it out of the country

## EXHIBIT ON TRACHOMA

A large exhibit, consisting of these five panels, measuring 34 inches by 68 inches and weighing approximately 250 pounds, may be borrowed without cost except expressage. It is suitable for purposes of prolonged exhibition, as, for example, a month or more in any city.



**Résumé.**—The Committee's collection of lantern slides is being used to great advantage, as will be noted in the foregoing. Loans have been made for use in 21 cities and towns in 14 States. The inventory now shows nearly 500 individual subjects, of which we have from three to five slides of each. Approximately 150 new subjects have been added during the year, acquired by purchase or gift. Grateful acknowledgment is hereby made to the following persons for the donation of valuable negatives and permission to reproduce slides and photographs: Mr. George H. Stickney, Harrison, N. J.; Mr. W. S. Bailey, Editor "The Nurse," Jamestown, N. Y.; Dr. F. Park Lewis, Buffalo, New York; Dr. Thaddeus Hyatt, New York, N. Y.; The National Safety Council, Chicago; The American Posture League, New York, and Dr. J. E. Virden, New York.

Reproductions of the Committee's slides have been purchased by: Dr. John H. Rindlaub, Fargo, N. D.; The American Posture League, New York, N. Y.; The Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Dr. Ellice M. Alger, New York, N. Y.; The Kansas State Board of Health; Dr. Conrad Berens, Jr., New York, N. Y.; The New Jersey State Commission for the Blind, and the New York State Commission for the Blind.

The purchase of a stereopticon by the Committee has added materially to the possibilities of our own use of the slides.

## PUBLICATIONS

The National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness has issued the following new publications:

	COPIES
No. 6. Trachoma, A Menace to America—Its Prevalence, Its Effects Upon Vision, and the Methods of Control and Eradication. First edition . . . . .	3,000
Second edition . . . . .	3,000
No. 7. Saving the Sight of Babies—An Outline for a Popular Lecture, with Inventory of More than 100 Lantern Slides on this Subject, Available for Use of Lecturers . . . . .	5,000
No. 8. First Annual Report—Including the Seventh Annual Report of the New York State Committee for the Prevention of Blindness . . . . .	3,000

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	COPIES
No. 9. Summary of State Laws and Rulings Relating to the Prevention of Blindness from Babies' Sore Eyes.....	5,000

Reprintings of our publications during the year have been made as follows:

	COPIES
No. 1. Common Causes of Blindness in Children, and the Means and Methods of Prevention,* 3 printings in editions of .....	3,000, 10,000, 10,000
No. 2. Care of Your Eyes—A Message to You, 3 printings in editions of .....	5,000, 5,000, 8,000
No. 3. Directions for the Prevention of Blindness from Babies' Sore Eyes—Needlessly Blind for Life, 5 printings in editions of (English)	10,000, 10,000, 10,000, 20,000, 3,000
No. 3. (Yiddish) 3 printings in editions of	10,000, 3,000, 5,000
No. 3. (Polish).....	5,000
No. 3. (Italian) 2 printings in editions of .....	3,000, 10,000
No. 5. What Women's Clubs and Nursing Organizations Can Do to Prevent Blindness.....	5,000
No. 6. Trachoma—A Menace to America.....	3,000
Trachoma Leaflet.....	5,000
Seventh Annual Report, New York State Committee.	2,000

## PUBLICITY THROUGH PUBLICATIONS IN JOURNALS AND THE PRESS

The following articles have been prepared and published through arrangement with the National Committee:

SUBJECT	AUTHOR	PUBLICATION
Babies' Sore Eyes.....	Gordon L. Berry	New York American
Motion Pictures and Eye-strain.....	Gordon L. Berry	Mo. Bulletin of the N. Y. City Dept. of Health
Motion Pictures and Eye-strain.....	Gordon L. Berry	The Modern Hospital
Motion Pictures and Eye-strain.....	Gordon L. Berry	The World of the Blind

\* This pamphlet was translated into Chinese by Supt. G. B. Fryer, of the Shanghai Institution, and has been widely circulated in China. It has also been used as a part of the annual publications of the schools for the blind of Arkansas, North Dakota, Virginia, Nebraska, Kentucky, Louisiana, South Dakota, and Maryland.

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SUBJECT	AUTHOR	PUBLICATION
Saving the Sight of School Children.....	Gordon L. Berry	Medical Review of Reviews
Causes of Blindness of Children in our State Schools for the Blind.....	Gordon L. Berry	The World of the Blind
Causes of Blindness of Children in our State Schools for the Blind.....	Gordon L. Berry	The Survey
Causes of Blindness of Children in our State Schools for the Blind.....	Gordon L. Berry	The Press generally in abbreviated form
Trachoma in the United States.....	Gordon L. Berry	The Modern Hospital
The Present Status of the Movement for the Prevention of Blindness...	Edward M. Van Cleave	The Modern Hospital
Notes from Various States on the Prevention of Blindness.....	C. C. Van Blarcom	The Modern Hospital
Article on Nursing.....	C. C. Van Blarcom	Good Housekeeping
The Need of More Efficient Obstetrical Care Among the Poor.....	Dr. R. W. Lobenstine	The Modern Hospital
Children Who Are Needlessly Blind.....	Gordon L. Berry	The Survey
Statistics on Blindness from Babies' Sore Eyes	Gordon L. Berry	The World of the Blind

Briefer items, editorial comment, quotations from the Committee's publications and reports have appeared frequently in the daily newspapers, nursing, medical and public health journals throughout the country. Many articles, interviews, etc., have been prepared by the Field Secretary for publication in the local press of cities visited during special State or local campaigns.

The Committee's cuts and photographs have been loaned to a number of State and local Boards of Health for publication in their bulletins.

That the publicity so secured has been wide-spread is evidenced by the correspondence reaching this office which has directly referred to the articles mentioned above.

Reprints of articles on prevention of blindness\* have been secured as follows:

\* Copies of these reprints may be secured on application to the Committee.

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SUBJECT	AUTHOR	PUBLICATION
What Women's Clubs and Nursing Organizations Can Do to Prevent Blindness.....	C. C. Van Blarcom	The Modern Hospital
For Organized Preventive Work.....	C. C. Van Blarcom	The Modern Hospital
Trachoma in the United States.....	Gordon L. Berry	The Modern Hospital
Notes from Various States on the Prevention of Blindness.....	C. C. Van Blarcom	The Modern Hospital
Need of More Efficient Obstetrical Care Among the Poor.....	Dr. R. W. Lobenstine	The Modern Hospital
Motion Pictures and Eye-strain.....	Gordon L. Berry	The Modern Hospital
The Present Status of the Movement for the Prevention of Blindness ...	E. M. Van Cleve	The Modern Hospital
Motion Pictures and Eye-strain.....	Gordon L. Berry	The Monthly Bulletin, N. Y. City Dept. of Health
Saving the Sight of Babies .	C. C. Van Blarcom	The Survey
Conservation of Vision and Prevention of Blindness	Dr. G. E. de Schweinitz	Jour. of the Amer. Med. Association

## CORRESPONDENCE

The average number of letters received requiring answer has been approximately 200 monthly.

The general nature of this correspondence has included inquiries concerning existing statutes in some States and contemplated legislation in others, model methods of enforcing existing laws, organization for permanent State or local work, preparation for meetings and educational campaigns, preparation of slides and exhibits, various kinds of information which would be helpful to local workers, the supplying of material for publications to be issued by other organizations, and the distribution of our own publications.

We have received communications from many parts of the world—England, Scotland, Wales, many of the continental countries, South America, China, Straits Settlements, South Africa, India, Australia, *et al.* These are mentioned merely as indicative of the scarcely-to-be-expected points reached by pub-

## SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

licity in this, but the second year of the Committee's existence. These letters have come from health officials, physicians, nurses, social workers, women's clubs, colleges, librarians, and the general public.

### LECTURES

The following lectures have been given during the past year under the auspices of this Committee:

DATE	WHERE GIVEN	CITY	LECTURER
<b>1915</b>			
Nov. 17.	State Normal School	Oswego, N. Y.	C. C. Van Blarcom
Nov. 17.	N. Y. Central R. R. Shops	Oswego, N. Y.	C. C. Van Blarcom
Nov. 17.	Oswego Co. Med. Soc.	Oswego, N. Y.	C. C. Van Blarcom
Nov. 17.	Buffalo Club	Buffalo, N. Y.	Edw. M. Van Cleve
Nov. 17.	Erie Co. Academy of Medicine	Buffalo, N. Y.	Edw. M. Van Cleve
Dec. 9.	Women's Club	Mt. Vernon, N. Y.	C. C. Van Blarcom
Dec.	Shearith-Israel Sisterhood Settlement	New York City	C. C. Van Blarcom
<b>1916</b>			
Jan.	....	Elizabeth, N. J.	C. C. Van Blarcom
Jan.	Brooklyn Bureau of Charities	Brooklyn, N. Y.	C. C. Van Blarcom
Jan. 10.	Cable Hall	Birmingham, Ala.	Gordon L. Berry
Jan. 10.	Ind. Presby. Church	Birmingham, Ala.	Gordon L. Berry
Jan. 10.	Jefferson County Med. Soc.	Birmingham, Ala.	Gordon L. Berry
Jan. 10.	Jefferson County Med. Soc.	Birmingham, Ala.	Gordon L. Berry
Jan. 18.	Talladega College	Talladega, Ala.	Gordon L. Berry
Jan. 19.	Court House	Talladega, Ala.	Gordon L. Berry
Jan. 21.	Montgomery County Med. Soc.	Montgomery, Ala.	Gordon L. Berry
Jan. 24.	Y. W. C. A.	Montgomery, Ala.	Gordon L. Berry
Jan. 27.	College Hall	Tuskegee, Ala.	Gordon L. Berry
Jan. 28.	High School	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	Gordon L. Berry
Jan. 29.	Ala. State University	Tuscaloosa, Ala.	Gordon L. Berry
Feb. 11.	Court House	Little Rock, Ark.	Gordon L. Berry
Feb. 11.	State School for Blind	Little Rock, Ark.	Gordon L. Berry
Feb. 16.	Methodist Church	Benton Harbor, Mich.	Gordon L. Berry
Feb. 17.	High School	St. Joseph, Mich.	Gordon L. Berry
Feb. 17.	Century Club	St. Joseph, Mich.	Gordon L. Berry
Feb. 18.	Library	Niles, Mich.	Gordon L. Berry
Feb. 20.	People's Church	Kalamazoo, Mich.	Gordon L. Berry
Feb. 21.	Kalamazoo College	Kalamazoo, Mich.	Gordon L. Berry
Feb. 21.	State Normal	Kalamazoo, Mich.	Gordon L. Berry
Feb. 23.	Sligh Furniture Factory	Grand Rapids, Mich.	Gordon L. Berry
Feb. 23.	Settlement House	Grand Rapids, Mich.	Gordon L. Berry
Feb. 23.	Kent Co. Med. Soc.	Grand Rapids, Mich.	Gordon L. Berry

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DATE	WHERE GIVEN	CITY	LECTURER
Feb. 24.	South High School	Grand Rapids, Mich.	Gordon L. Berry
Feb. 24.	Ryerson Library	Grand Rapids, Mich.	Gordon L. Berry
Feb. 27.	Central Y. M. C. A.	Brooklyn, N. Y.	Edw. M. Van Cleve
Mch. 9.	Court House	Salem, N. J.	Edw. M. Van Cleve
Mch. 9.	Public School No. 59	New York City	Gordon L. Berry
Mch. 21.	Housewives' League	New York City	Gordon L. Berry
Apr. 16.	High School	Troy, New York	Gordon L. Berry
May 5.	Murray Hill Voc. Sch.	New York City	Gordon L. Berry
May 7.	The Scoville School	New York City	Gordon L. Berry
May 11.	Federation Settlement	New York City	Gordon L. Berry
May 12.	The Scoville School	New York City	Gordon L. Berry
May 13.	State Federation Women's Clubs	Ocean Grove, N. J.	Gordon L. Berry
May 14.	Civic Club	Garden City, L. I.	Dr. Frank Overton
May 15.	Union College	Schenectady, N. Y.	Dr. Frank Overton
May 16.	Hermitage Hotel (Tenn. Commission for the Blind)	Nashville, Tenn.	Edw. M. Van Cleve
May 16.	Tennessee School for the Blind	Nashville, Tenn.	Edw. M. Van Cleve
May 17.	Arkadelphia College	Arkadelphia, Ark.	Edw. M. Van Cleve
May 18.	Hendrix College	Conway, Ark.	Edw. M. Van Cleve
May 18.	State Normal School	Conway, Ark.	Edw. M. Van Cleve
May 18.	Browne College	Conway, Ark.	Edw. M. Van Cleve
May 18.	Town Hall	Conway, Ark.	Edw. M. Van Cleve
May 18.	Elmira College	Elmira, N. Y.	Dr. Frank Overton
May 19.	High School Assembly	Little Rock, Ark.	Edw. M. Van Cleve
May 19.	State School for the Blind	Little Rock, Ark.	Edw. M. Van Cleve
May 20.	Chamber of Com- merce	Hot Springs, Ark.	Edw. M. Van Cleve
May 22.	State School for the Blind	Jackson, Miss.	Edw. M. Van Cleve
May 23.	Legislature of Louisiana	Baton Rouge, La.	Edw. M. Van Cleve
May 24.	Noonday Factory Meeting	New Orleans, La.	Edw. M. Van Cleve
May 24.	Public Hall	New Orleans, La.	Edw. M. Van Cleve
July 2.	West Side Y. M. C. A.	New York City	Gordon L. Berry
July 9.	West Side Y. M. C. A.	New York City	W. I. Scandlin
July 16.	West Side Y. M. C. A.	New York City	Marion A. Campbell
July 23.	West Side Y. M. C. A.	New York City	Dr. C. Berens, Jr.
July 30.	West Side Y. M. C. A.	New York City	Geo. H. Stickney
July 31.	Meinhard Memorial Settlement	New York City	Gordon L. Berry
Oct. 9.	Central Y. M. C. A.	Brooklyn, N. Y.	Edw. M. Van Cleve
Oct. 13.	Ascension Chapel Neighborhood Club	New York City	Winifred Hathaway
Oct. 20.	District Nurses' Ass'n and School Super- visors	Buffalo, N. Y.	Winifred Hathaway
Oct. 24.	Loving Service Club	Audubon, N. J.	Dr. Chas. F. Adams
Oct. 27.	Amer. Public Health Association	Cincinnati, O.	Edw. M. Van Cleve
Oct. 28.	Shaw University	Raleigh, N. C.	Gordon L. Berry

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DATE	WHERE GIVEN	CITY	LECTURER
Oct. 29.	Y. M. C. A.	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Gordon L. Berry
Oct. 29.	First Baptist Church	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Gordon L. Berry
Oct. 30.	High School	Rocky Mount, N. C.	Gordon L. Berry
Oct. 31.	Court House	Wilson, N. C.	Gordon L. Berry
Oct. 31.	E. C. Training School	Greenville, N. C.	Gordon L. Berry

These lectures have been given on invitation before National, State, and local medical societies, before general audiences in library auditoriums, churches, Y. M. C. A.'s and Y. W. C. A.'s, High Schools, Colleges and Universities, Settlement Houses, etc. Special series of educational illustrated lectures for which the National Committee has supplied speakers have been arranged by the Louisiana Commission for the Blind, the New Jersey Commission for the Blind, the Michigan Association of Workers for the Blind, the Arkansas State School for the Blind, West Side Y. M. C. A., New York City, the Birmingham (Ala.) Association for the Blind, Committee on Conservation of Vision of the State Medical Society of North Carolina, the New York State Commission for the Blind, and the New York State Committee for the Prevention of Blindness. To those in charge of arrangements for these meetings, which were, without exception, successfully planned and carried out, our appreciation is cordially extended.

## LEGISLATION

In January, 1915, we issued a Summary of State Laws and Rulings Relating to the Prevention of Blindness from Babies' Sore Eyes (Publication No. 5). Knowledge of additional laws and rulings, certain of which were not in existence when the first summary was prepared, made it advisable to request the most recent and inclusive data on this subject from every State Commissioner of Health. The results therefrom are shown in the new Summary, Publication No. 9, issued August 1, 1916. Bet-terments are shown in the reports from Alabama, Arizona, Ar-kansas, California, Colorado, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, Tennessee, Utah, and West Virginia. It is quite possible that certain of these provisions which in the following paragraphs are noted as having come into existence during the past two years,

## SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

may have been in force when the first Summary was issued, though at that time not reported by the then State Commissioners of Health. The complete list of betterments as shown in the latest Summary are:

The State Legislature of New Jersey extended the powers of their State Commission for the Blind so that work for prevention of blindness is now included, and granted an initial appropriation of \$1,500 to be used exclusively in preventive work.

The Board of Health of the State of Minnesota has adopted inclusive regulations.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum has been made a reportable disease in Alabama, California, Colorado, Mississippi, New Hampshire, North Carolina, and West Virginia.

The Board of Health has been empowered to secure attention for uncared-for cases in Alabama, Colorado, Kansas, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Oregon and West Virginia.

The reporting law has been added to the birth certificate in Alabama.

Free distribution of prophylactic outfits has been added in California, Mississippi, Utah, and Washington.

Requirements for the use of a prophylactic (usually specified by the State Board of Health) by physicians and midwives have been added in Colorado, Idaho, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee and West Virginia; recommendations for such treatment are made in Arizona, Illinois and Iowa.

The question as to whether a prophylactic was used, has been added to the birth certificate in Alabama, California, Illinois, Kentucky and Ohio.

Changes in the time limit set for reporting births were made in California, Illinois and Kentucky.

Literature for distribution has been added by Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee and Utah.

With many of these changes the National Committee has been actively identified through its service as a clearing-house of information on existing legislation and through the personal service of its executive officers. As this report is being written your

## SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Field Secretary is in North Carolina for the Committee on Conservation of Vision of the State Medical Society, our coöperation having been requested in their effort to secure additions to present legislation, so that a more effective system of control of blindness from ophthalmia neonatorum may be secured through enactment of the forthcoming session of the General Assembly.

### CENSUS OF CAUSES OF BLINDNESS AMONG PUPILS ENROLLED IN SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND

For several years an inquiry has been made of the superintendents of schools for the blind relative to causes of blindness. Through their coöperation we have been able to prepare the following statistics:

#### PROPORTION OF PUPILS IN SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND DURING THE PAST SIX YEARS WHO ARE BLIND FROM OPH- THALMIA NEONATORUM

School year	No. of schools	Total pupils	Pupils blind from O. N.	Per cent.
1910-11.....	16	2,018	521	25.8
1911-12.....	23	2,400	567	23.6
1912-13.....	21	2,327	684	29.3
1913-14.....	19	2,496	622	24.9
1914-15.....	30	3,334	740	22.1
1915-16.....	34	3,858	843	21.8

#### PROPORTION OF PUPILS NEWLY ADMITTED TO SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND DURING THE PAST NINE YEARS, WHO ARE BLIND FROM OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

School year	No. of schools	Total new admissions	Pupils blind from O. N.	Per cent.
1907-8.....	10	290	77	26.5
1908-9.....	14	300	68	22.6
1909-10.....	13	325	67	20.6
1910-11.....	15	351	84	23.9
1911-12.....	24	415	88	21.2
1912-13.....	21	386	88	22.7
1913-14.....	19	428	84	19.6
1914-15.....	28	602	91	15.1
1915-16.....	35	666	127	19.0

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## PROPORTION OF PUPILS BLIND FROM OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM IN THIRTY-ONE STATE SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND, 1915-1916

	Total pupils, 1915-1916	Total pupils blind from O. N.	Per cent.	New admissions	New pupils blind from O. N.	Per cent.
California . . . . .	97	13	13.3	13	5	38.4
Colorado . . . . .	44	17	38.6	10	2	20.0
Connecticut . . . . .	49	11	22.4	11	1	9.0
Idaho . . . . .	17	2	11.8	5	0	0
Illinois . . . . .	214	35	16.4	25	3	12.0
Indiana . . . . .	141	7	5.0	19	0	0
Iowa . . . . .	136	34	25.0	20	4	20.0
Kansas . . . . .	92	25	27.2	15	4	26.6
Kentucky . . . . .	147	35	23.8	25	5	20.0
Louisiana . . . . .	59	12	2.3	19	0	0
Maryland . . . . .	113	30	26.5	20	8	40.0
Massachusetts . . . . .	301	79	26.6	49	11	22.4
Missouri . . . . .	119	28	23.5	25	6	24.0
Montana . . . . .	118	5	4.2	1	0	0
Nebraska . . . . .	56	15	26.8	10	5	50.0
New York (Batavia) . . . . .	191	47	24.6	39	5	12.8
New York Institute for the Education of the Blind . . . . .	..	..	..	24	5	20.8
New Mexico . . . . .	51	19	37.3	14	4	28.6
North Carolina . . . . .	244	48	19.7	51	6	11.7
North Dakota . . . . .	32	3	9.4	6	0	0
Ohio . . . . .	249	91	36.5	47	17	36.0
Oregon . . . . .	42	0	0	9	1	11.0
Pennsylvania . . . . .	237	76	32.1	35	3	8.5
W. Pennsylvania . . . . .	140	45	32.1	28	10	35.7
South Carolina . . . . .	94	0	..	..	..	..
South Dakota . . . . .	28	3	10.7	0	0	0
Tennessee . . . . .	231	30	13.0	59	3	5.1
Utah . . . . .	36	7	19.4	3	1	33.0
Vermont . . . . .	6	3	50.0	..	..	..
Virginia . . . . .	77	5	6.5	0	0	0
Wisconsin . . . . .	140	35	25.0	21	3	14.0
BLIND PUPILS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS:	3,501	760	21.7	603	112	18.5
Chicago . . . . .	51	30	58.8	4	2	50.0
Detroit . . . . .	28	9	32.1	11	2	18.2
Milwaukee . . . . .	65	18	27.7	11	2	18.2
New York City . . . . .	213	26	12.2	37	9	24.3
Grand Total . . . . .	357 3,858	83 843	23.2 21.8	63 666	15 127	23.8 19.0

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

PUPILS BLIND FROM CAUSES OTHER THAN OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM OUT OF A TOTAL OF 3,858 ENROLLED 1915-1916 IN 31 STATE SCHOOLS FOR THE BLIND, AND 4 CITY CLASSES FOR BLIND PUPILS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEMS

From Accident, 306; from Progressive Nearsightedness, 77; from Trachoma 56; from Interstitial Keratitis 146; from Optic Nerve Atrophy 340; from other congenital defects 824, and from Wood Alcohol Poisoning 5.

This census of causes of blindness responsible for the enrollment of 3,858 children in thirty State schools for the blind and four classes for blind children in public school systems, for the school year 1915-1916, shows the lowest percentage of pupils blind from ophthalmia neonatorum for any year since 1910, when the first census of this nature was taken by the New York State Committee for the Prevention of Blindness. The number of pupils then blind from this disease out of a total of 2,018, 16 schools reporting, was 521, a percentage of 25.8. Since that time, with the exception of one year, there has been a gradual decrease, culminating with the figures shown for the school year just ended, when, of a total enrollment of 3,858 from 34 schools reporting, only 843 pupils (21.8 per cent.) are blind from this disease.

Of the new pupils enrolled for the year 1915-1916, 35 schools reporting, 127 out of 666 (19 per cent.) are blind from ophthalmia neonatorum. This is the lowest percentage reported during the past nine years, with the exception of the school year 1914-1915, when but 15.1 per cent. of the pupils newly admitted were blind from this cause.

This gratifying annual decrease is undoubtedly to be attributed to a more general understanding as to the dangers from ophthalmia neonatorum (babies' sore eyes) and the increasing use of the recognized preventive measures. The Summary of State rulings on this subject, corrected to August 1, 1916, and issued by the National Committee for the Prevention of Blindness, shows the following legal provisions:

1. The reporting of babies' sore eyes to the local health officer or to a physician is compulsory in 37 States.
2. The reporting law is printed on the birth certificate in 7 States.
3. Local health officers are authorized and required to secure

medical attention for uncared-for cases, or to warn parents of the dangers and advise immediate treatment in 21 States.

4. Births are reported early enough to be of assistance in prevention of blindness work in 11 States.

5. The question as to whether or not precautions were taken against ophthalmia neonatorum is included on the birth certificate in 15 States.

6. Free prophylactic outfits are distributed to physicians and midwives in 16 States.

7. The use of a prophylactic (usually specified by the State Board of Health) as a routine is compulsory in 17 States and strongly recommended in an additional 4 States.

8. Popular educational leaflets relating in whole or in part to prevention of infantile blindness are distributed by State departments of health in 29 States.

Compared with the legal provisions reported to the National Committee by State commissioners of health as correct to January 15, 1915, we now find that there are in fact 16 States from which new legislation or improvements in old laws or rulings are reported. In several States new legislation on this subject is now pending, with enactment expected at forthcoming legislative sessions.

The highest percentage of pupils blind from ophthalmia neonatorum is shown in the three following States: Vermont, 50 per cent. of total enrollment; Colorado, 38.6 per cent.; New Mexico, 37.3 per cent.

In Vermont and New Mexico there are practically no legislative provisions for the prevention of blindness from that disease.

The highest percentage blind from ophthalmia neonatorum among pupils *newly admitted* for the school year just completed is shown in the report from Nebraska, 50 per cent., followed by Maryland, 40 per cent. In Nebraska, a new law was passed in 1915 which now makes it the duty of every physician to use a prophylactic in the eyes of any new-born child. Maryland, however, has had legislation on this subject since 1904. New legislation went into effect in California in 1915, and is being vigorously enforced by the State Board of Health. The provisions there call for immediate reporting, the distribution of free

prophylactic outfits, and the inclusion on the birth certificate of the question as to whether or not a prophylactic was used.

Quite evidently there is yet much for the States to do towards safeguarding the eyesight of their infant citizens, for in no State do we find that all of the desired provisions exist, while in some no remedial legislation has as yet been enacted.

The first statutory requirement which should be made by all the States would seem to be the compulsory immediate reporting of every case of babies' sore eyes to the local health officer, with a penalty attached for not doing so. Medical attention could then be provided for all uncared-for cases, while the information secured regarding babies who are attended by physicians, as well as those who are not, would be valuable in showing the frequency with which this disease occurs and the frequency with which injury results from its neglect.

Since babies' sore eyes may result from the invasion of any one of several infecting organisms, and as the occurrence of the disease does not necessarily bring with it a social stigma, there would seem to be no reason for not urging that it be invariably reported to local health officers.

## MIDWIVES

There are few who will not admit the necessity in this country for recognition of the place filled by midwives in our cities and rural communities. Their elimination, at least in this generation, is out of the question. The problem remains: How shall the midwife be so trained and controlled as to become of greatest value, rather than a menace, to those who from tradition, environment, or for financial reason find it advisable to engage her services? With her education in the recognition of conditions which might prove deleterious to a child's vision, we are vitally interested. This can be achieved through training, licensure, and control by State and local health authorities.

With these agencies we have had frequent opportunity for giving coöperation and advice based upon the best results reported to this Committee from various sections of the United States, and from European countries.

## WOOD ALCOHOL

Bills affecting the sale and use of wood alcohol were passed during the last session of the legislatures of Ohio, Tennessee, California, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Oregon, Nebraska and Illinois.

The Committee has as usual been called upon to provide statistical material on methyl alcohol as a cause of blindness, through inhalation of its fumes or through drinking this poison either straight or in combination with other mixtures.

The bill on this subject in Kentucky, in the preparation of which we were actively coöperating with Miss Linda Neville, Secretary of the Kentucky Society for the Prevention of Blindness, was anteceded by so many other legislative measures that it was impossible to bring it up for final consideration before the adjournment of the General Assembly.

New cases of death and blindness are reported to the Committee from time to time. In Seattle, Washington, seven men died and three were left partially blind through drinking a mixture sold them by a Japanese druggist, which, though supposedly containing grain alcohol, was found upon analysis to have had methyl alcohol substituted therefor in direct violation of the law.

The investigation conducted by the Board of Health of Seattle is an admirable example of efficient dealing with violations of this nature. The Japanese druggist referred to was summarily brought to trial and convicted, being sentenced to two years' imprisonment in the State Penitentiary.

Dr. J. S. McBride, Health Officer of Seattle, used this tragic object-lesson to great educational advantage. Much publicity relating to the case was given throughout the Northwest, and the wood alcohol exhibit of the National Committee was displayed in the Seattle Public Library and other prominent places over a period of several weeks. This exhibit was also used by the Health Officer of Snohomish, Washington.

Two other cases, in New York and New Jersey, merit comment here. It was alleged that A— D—, of New York City, was blinded from inhaling the fumes of Columbian Spirits used as a solvent

in varnish with which he was engaged in painting the interiors of beer-vats at a brewery. D— brought suit against the brewery, and in June, 1916, the case came to trial in the Supreme Court, New York City. After a ten days' legal battle, the jury unanimously awarded D— a verdict of \$25,000 damages against the brewery. Our information is that this verdict was set aside by the presiding judge on the ground that "the plaintiff had not shown negligence as against the brewery." Attorneys for the plaintiff have notified us that appeal would be taken, and every effort made to reinstate the verdict in the higher courts. Much material on wood alcohol as a menace to vision was provided by the National Committee for the use of the plaintiff's attorneys.

Again, early in the summer of 1916, the case of H— S—, a young Italian workman of New York, was referred to the Committee for investigation by the late Dr. Wilbur H. Marple to whom S— had been sent at the New York Eye and Ear Infirmary. S— reported serious illness and blindness within forty-eight hours after he had taken a few drinks of what he thought was an Italian cordial—Ferra China—sold him at a saloon in a New Jersey suburban city.

A complete report on this case was immediately forwarded to the Health Officer of the New Jersey city, who, with an inspector from the State Bureau of Foods and Drugs, secured at the State Laboratories an analysis of samples of the liquor. It was found to contain approximately 40 per cent. wood alcohol. Federal investigators were called in, and the saloonkeeper's source of supply discovered in a wholesale grocery in Brooklyn. The Bureau of Foods and Drugs, New York City Department of Health, forthwith raided this place, and secured 500 bottles, bearing counterfeit labels of standard liquors, and containing substituted mixtures showing from 40 to 50 per cent. wood alcohol. These were destroyed. The grocer's story was that he had bought the lot at cut rates from a salesman whom he had seen neither before nor since the transaction. He moreover claimed that he had no knowledge that the contents of the bottles were otherwise than genuine.

The National Committee does not have the facilities for conducting investigations in cases of this kind. Rather is it our

province to instigate the investigation through the proper channels and give as much publicity as possible to the dangers from the use of this poison.

## INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

Your Field Secretary has made an exhaustive study of hazards to eyesight in the industries, and has prepared a booklet on this subject, to be published by the Committee in the near future, which, it is hoped, will be of material assistance and information to those interested in the safeguarding of the vision of workmen who are employed in hazardous occupations. The study on this subject also developed the material used in the preparation of the new exhibit—Eye Accidents in the Industries—illustrated on opposite page.

## THE BUFFALO STUDY

In August the National Committee undertook its study of methods adapted for conservation of vision in the city of Buffalo, N. Y. A special appropriation having been granted the Committee for this investigation, it is planned to prepare a series of reports covering the work of the Bureau of Child Hygiene of the Buffalo Department of Health, sight-saving efforts in the medical inspection of school children, illuminating conditions to be found in schools, offices, and industrial manufactories, and hazards to eyesight in Buffalo industries.

The Committee sent Mr. Thomas P. Bradshaw, M. E., of the American Museum of Safety, to initiate this work through a careful study of eye hazards and measures for control to be found in representative industries in that city. Approximately one hundred factories and workshops, large and small, have been inspected. A detailed report on each has been made. Conferences held with the safety directors and officers of the various concerns have enabled our representative personally to assist in solving special problems relating to the larger development of safety methods, and likewise to inspire others who have not heretofore recognized the humanitarian and economic advantages in the protection of the vision of their employees.

# EYE ACCIDENTS IN INDUSTRIES



From a  
skilled  
workman  
Blind  
Bengal

## HE TOOK A CHANCE

Largely because both employers and workmen take chances and there are nearly

**200,000 ACCIDENTS TO EYES**  
in United States industries  
every year

In one county in Ohio  
one eye is lost every six days

Do you know the methods  
for reducing hazards in  
your industry or your trade?  
Are you using them?



He may get the dirt or chip  
out but he also may  
start infection from his

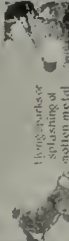
**SOILED HANDS  
HANDKERCHIEF**

**DIRTY MATCH  
OR TOOTHPICK**  
Then disease results and  
the eye may be lost

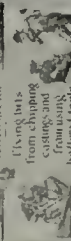
But chips etc. should be removed  
by the company doctor if there  
is one. If not, your foreman  
should use only the first aid kit

**WIDEMAKE** provide  
power aids  
**EMPLOYERS** provide  
**EMPLOYEES** use them

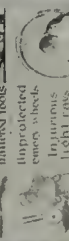
## SOME INDUSTRIAL HAZARDS TO EYESIGHT



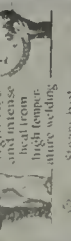
High surface  
splashing of  
molten metal



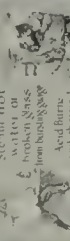
Flying bits  
from chipping  
cuttings and  
frustrating  
battered tools



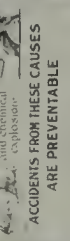
Unprotected  
eyes, wheels  
injuries



Injurious  
light rays  
from  
high temper-  
ature welding



Steam hot  
written on  
broken glass  
from bursting  
pipe

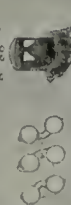


Acid fumes  
and chemical  
explosion

ACCIDENTS FROM THESE CAUSES  
ARE PREVENTABLE

## GOGGLES vs BLINDNESS

These men refused to be  
bothered with goggles



**GOGGLES AND HELMETS**  
prevent injury to furnace  
men, welders etc. exposed  
to injurious light rays



**YOU CAN SOON GET USED  
TO GOGGLES -  
BUT YOU CANT GET USED  
TO BLINDNESS!**



Light  
glare  
in the  
eyes  
causes  
blindness  
on the  
work

## BAD LIGHTING

may permanently injure  
the sight of workers  
lessens efficiency and  
reduces the output  
greatly increases the danger  
of accident



## GOOD LIGHTING

means sufficient light well  
distributed and without glare  
Employers who do not provide  
good light are wasteful  
Workers who use poor  
lighting are reckless

EXHIBIT ON EYE ACCIDENTS IN INDUSTRIES



## SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Mr. Bradshaw's final report will provide, we hope, a handbook of useful knowledge, for distribution among industrialists in other cities throughout the nation.

The second study of the series has lately been made by the new Secretary of the Committee, Mrs. Winifred Hathaway. As was stated in the seventh annual report of the New York State Committee for the Prevention of Blindness, admirable results have been secured by the Buffalo Department of Health in its efforts to reduce to a minimum blindness from babies' sore eyes. Commissioner Francis E. Fronczak and his aides have been tireless in this work, and have made every effort to develop a model system of reporting, investigation, and relief. Mrs. Hathaway's report will include a history of this work in Buffalo, the record of results secured and a detailed explanation, with reproduction of forms as used, showing the routine measures which have been so successfully put into practice. This should prove of great value to the health organizations in other communities in providing for their use a complete report on an exceptionally efficient execution of efforts for saving the sight of babies.

### MEDICAL INSPECTION OF SCHOOL CHILDREN

The Committee has, in all of its educational propaganda, laid special emphasis on the need for recognition of defective vision among children as an important part of formal and informal medical school inspection. Through correspondence and conferences with representatives of health departments, Boards of Education, and others interested, we have been able to trace improvements directly resulting from our work in many communities. To cite one instance: in a small city in a Southern State interest was aroused through interviews with a prominent club woman, the local health officer, and school officials. Shortly thereafter, tests of the vision of each pupil through the use of the Snellen chart were instituted, these being made by the teachers of all pupils. Those who showed apparently defective vision were given a note to the parents, requesting that the child be given examination by an oculist. For such as were not able to pay for treatment, funds were supplied by the Mothers' Club.

## SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

In this one small community, the first report shows that one child was thereby saved from total blindness, while a number of others with seriously defective vision had the needed treatment provided. Almost needless to state, medical school inspection, with its possibilities for sight saving, has in that community been demonstrated to a sufficient degree to make it an annual obligatory measure.

Again, plans for a new school building were completely altered, after receipt from this Committee of data on the most approved methods of daylight and artificial illumination of schools.

It is worthy of note that the matter of conservation of vision of school children had a large place on the programs of the annual meetings of the American School Hygiene Association, and the National Education Association, held during the summer in New York City.

### ILLUMINATION

The Illuminating Engineering Society's coöperation has again been cordially welcomed by this Committee, and it has been possible for us to make large use of material which their expert investigations have provided. Their "Code of Lighting for Factories" has proved a most valuable reference to those who have inquired through us for information on this subject.

As the Committee has not an appropriation sufficiently large to make possible individual research work in this field, and as, in fact, it would be poor policy to attempt to duplicate that which is being carried forward so successfully by the Illuminating Engineering Society, we are especially grateful for their active interest and cordial coöperation.

### MOTION PICTURES AND EYESTRAIN

With the tremendous development of the motion picture industry in the United States, there have been many who have felt that the constant viewing of these pictures might prove deleterious to vision. Your Acting Secretary has made a special study of this subject, and his conclusions may be found in an article printed in the Monthly Bulletin of the New York City Department

## SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

of Health. In brief, it would seem that where proper illumination of auditorium and proper projection on the screen are provided, after good mechanical preparation of the picture, there is small hazard to eyesight. If, however, under best conditions, strain or other indications of eye trouble are apparent, it should be sufficient cause for immediate consultation with an oculist, as early symptoms of glaucoma and other eye diseases may thus be recognized and the proper curative treatment begun in time.

### CONCLUSION

During eight months of the past year your Field Secretary has likewise been the Committee's Acting Secretary, combining also the supervision of the work of the New York State Committee for the Prevention of Blindness. Due to these additional responsibilities, there have of necessity been postponed many activities which at the beginning of the year he had hoped to include in the year's work. With the recent appointment of Mrs. Winifred Hathaway as Secretary, it is our hope and belief that the third year of the National Committee will be productive of the best results in its campaign for the conservation of vision.

Respectfully submitted,

GORDON L. BERRY,

*Acting Secretary and Field Secretary.*

November 1, 1916.

# MANAGING DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

OCTOBER 1, 1915, TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1916

Treasurer's Balance, September 30, 1915 ..... \$858.19  
 Managing Director's Balance, September 30, 1915..... 801.42

## RECEIPTS AS REPORTED TO THE TREASURER

October .....	\$1,349.09	
November .....	1,354.00	
December .....	11,036.50	
January .....	91.45	
February .....	1,577.75	
March .....	130.96	
April .....	210.59	
May .....	308.78	
June .....	123.53	
July .....	1,250.00	
August .....	246.15	
September .....	147.90	17,826.70
		<u>\$19,486.31</u>

## EXPENDITURES

Salaries and Wages .....	\$8,401.05	
Traveling Expenses .....	1,065.53	
Publicity .....	3,734.88	
Office Expenses .....	2,082.29	
Office Equipment .....	242.61	
Miscellaneous .....	80.00	\$15,606.36
Balance in Managing Director's hands, Sep- tember 30, 1916 .....	246.83	
Balance in Treasurer's hands, as shown on Managing Director's books .....	3,633.12	<u>\$19,486.31</u>

EDWARD M. VAN CLEVE,  
*Managing Director.*

The following is an extract from the report of the Auditor appointed by the President to audit the accounts of the Committee:

November 6, 1916.

In accordance with instructions received, we have audited the books and records of the Managing Director's office for the period October 1, 1915, to September 30, 1916.

All vouchers and canceled bank checks were compared with the books and found to be in order. The Treasurer's Statement was examined and is also in agreement with the books.

\* \* \* \* \*

We certify that the annexed Statement of the Managing Director is in accordance with the books, and that the balance of the cash in bank is in agreement with the Bank Statement at September 30, 1916.

Respectfully submitted,

METROPOLITAN AUDIT CO.,  
 MORGAN G. WAKE.

# TREASURER'S STATEMENT

OCTOBER 8, 1915, TO SEPTEMBER 30, 1916

1915		RECEIPTS	
Oct. 8.	Balance on hand . . . . .	\$837.37	
Oct.	Memberships . . . . .	24.00	
	Refund . . . . .	1.85	
	Sales of Publications, etc. . . . .	22.95	
	Rental of Exhibits . . . . .	34.55	
	From Sage Foundation . . . . .	1,250.00	
Nov.	Donations . . . . .	100.00	
	Memberships . . . . .	4.00	
Dec.	From Sage Foundation . . . . .	1,250.00	
	Memberships . . . . .	450.00	
	From estate Temple Bowdoin . . . . .	2,000.00	
	Donations . . . . .	825.00	
	Sales of Exhibits, Slides, etc. . . . .	9.30	
	From Treasurer, Buffalo Association for the Conservation of Vision . . . . .	2,608.20	
	Interest on Bank Balances . . . . .	9.69	
1916			
Jan.	Memberships . . . . .	103.00	
	From Rockefeller Foundation . . . . .	5,000.00	
	Donations . . . . .	100.00	
Feb.	From Sage Foundation . . . . .	1,250.00	
	Memberships . . . . .	134.00	
	Donations . . . . .	111.00	
	Sale of Literature, Photos, etc. . . . .	85.30	
Mar.	Memberships . . . . .	13.00	
	Sales of Publications, Use of Slides, etc. . . . .	28.05	
April	Refunds of Express Charges, etc. . . . .	7.63	
	Sales of Publications, Use of Slides, etc. . . . .	88.87	
	Donations . . . . .	146.00	
	Memberships . . . . .	58.00	
May	Sales of Publications, etc. . . . .	4.00	
	Donations . . . . .	120.00	
June	Interest on Bank Balances . . . . .	80.96	
	Memberships . . . . .	14.00	
	Donation . . . . .	100.00	
	Sales of Publications, Slides, etc. . . . .	70.78	
July	Memberships . . . . .	4.00	
	Sales of Literature . . . . .	.50	
	Refund for loss of Exhibit, Express Charges Paid . . . . .	59.34	
	Sales of Literature, Publications, etc. . . . .	59.69	
	From Sage Foundation . . . . .	1,250.00	
Aug.	Memberships . . . . .	23.00	
	Sales of Exhibits, Publications, Slides, etc. . . . .	198.35	
	Donations . . . . .	10.00	
	Refunds and Express Charges paid . . . . .	14.80	
Sept.	Donations . . . . .	50.00	
	Interest on Man. Director's Bank Balances . . . . .	16.94	
			<hr/> \$18,628.12

# SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE

1915		EXPENDITURES	
Nov.	Paid to Managing Director . . . . .	\$1,300.00	
	Return of donation to A. D. Curtis . . . . .	75.00	
Dec.	Paid to Managing Director . . . . .	1,475.00	
	Paid to Managing Director . . . . .	1,395.00	
1916			
Jan.	Paid to Managing Director . . . . .	1,200.00	
Feb.	Paid to Managing Director . . . . .	1,100.00	
Mar.	Paid to Managing Director . . . . .	1,150.00	
April	Paid to Managing Director . . . . .	1,200.00	
May	Paid to Managing Director . . . . .	1,300.00	
June	Paid to Managing Director . . . . .	1,200.00	
July	Paid to Managing Director . . . . .	1,100.00	
Aug.	Paid to Managing Director . . . . .	1,200.00	
Sept.	Paid to Managing Director . . . . .	1,300.00	
Oct. I.	Balance on Hand . . . . .	3,633.12	
			\$18,628.12

GEORGE BLAGDEN,  
Treasurer.

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